

November 1975

MORALE BOOSTER



"SPACE IS A BETTER PLACE"

STEREOREADY

MORALE BOOSTER

the official organ of

UNITED FOR OUR EXPANDED SPACE PROGRAMS

VOLUME II NUMBER 6

NOVEMBER 1975

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I. Progress Is Our Most Important Product

In these pages we have stressed two guiding principles for the organization's work: unity and activism. Although we are not the first revolutionaries (it is time to speak precisely of our attitudes towards the exploration and exploitation of the space environment) to recognize the necessity of unity and activism for the success of our endeavors, the potency of those principles is not diminished by our espousal of such old ideas. The importance of them is simple: unity brings greater mass (that is to say, inertia) to bear upon spacetime while activism shapes the distortion in the continuum through motion. These are abstract terms. Yet they define the foundation upon which we build our space dreams in quite concrete ways.

For many months we have discussed unity in terms of the membership of U.F.O.E.S.P. The many opportunities for concerted action by self-generated subgroups of the membership, the benefits of increasingly organized and concerted activity by the organization, the methods by which the cohesiveness of U.F.O.E.S.P. can be increased are all topics which have come under scrutiny in times past. Much less attention has been directed to the implications of these matters to unity on a broader organizational scale than our single, solitary organization. We have spoken about the existence of many groups across the country oriented to space as the necessity of the moment. As many pregnant possibilities for effective action to turn this nation around on space arise from the unification of the efforts of space groups as are consequent to the unity of the members of one, particular organization. It is the idea of unity of the many space-enthusiast organizations which we wish to explore in this column this month.

Some months ago the thought came to the President that an initial effort to create a denser network of interactions and communications amongst space-enthusiast organizations could be profitably expressed with a national conference of delegates sent by groups paying a registration fee. After brooding consideration, particular benefits to such a conference became apparent. One reward would be the simple confirmation, negative or positive, of the extent to which space enthusiasts are organized into formal collections of individuals. A second benefit would be the increased understanding of the range of interests and activities of space groups which would result from an open examination of issues vital to the interests of space enthusiasts. Yet another desirable consequence would be the opportunity to discuss possible concerted projects to mobilize the nation for space. Fourthly, an historical fact and precedent would be established which would, through its example, stimulate further efforts to unite the energies of all space enthusiasts at the individual and group levels as well as make any such future gatherings easier to create. Finally, there would be an indeterminate number of rewards, both great and small, which cannot be foreseen now but which would emerge as each event, precedent to and consequent with the actualization of the conference, unfolded with its volatile compound of chance and design. Such striking benefits as these compelled the Board of Governors to agree on the value to pursuit of the quarry.

As the idea continued to be examined critically, the space conference itself grew increasingly definite (various) (alternative) outlines. Rather than recapitulate the musings and meditations from which the possible outlines were made, let us review one scenario for the conference. Call the gathering CHRYSE 1 (the first Convocation [Humanistic, Revolutionary] of Space Enthusiasts). The site for the event might be the San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley region. Three days would not be excessive for CHRYSE 1 if the attendance were to be large (65 or more persons) but a small gathering would achieve much the same result with as little as a day for deliberations. If the longer version were to occur, it would be reasonable to tax the stamina of the delegates to the sessions as little as possible and so there might be six major program items distributed over the three days with one item each for morning and afternoon for each day. Since depth and breadth are both desired with reference to the content of CHRYSE 1, all major program items would be distinct one from another. Naturally, it would be most thorough to have an opening statement and a closing statement for the convocation but these remarks could be readily integrated with the first and sixth

major program items so that the real work of the gathering would be centered on the formal sessions. There would be ample time between the major program items for the delegates to meet informally to discuss perspectives, proposals, and propositions. Much of the useful work of the convocation would be done in informal meetings and conversations. In addition to these opportunities for dissemination of information and investigation of concerted action it would be easy to establish an area at the site of the convocation where tables for each organization present at the convocation would be established (and peopled) by representatives of these groups. Literature, artifacts, memberships, etc could be distributed and sold by the attending organizations. Without question, CHRYSE 1 would be invaluable as a (momentary) information distribution and processing center for the Space Revolution and, if for no other reason, should be held.

Let us continue with this fantasy and present a possible program. The major program items might consider such topics as: (a) The Technological Infrastructure of the Space Revolution; (b) Political Prospects; (c) Why a Space Revolution?; (d) Colonology and the Preparation of the Space Revolution; (e) Luna University; and (f) Cosmological Education. The general temporal pattern/framework for CHRYSE 1 could be as follows:

<u>Day One</u>	<u>Day Two</u>	<u>Day Three</u>
9:00am-4:00pm Registration	9:00am-4:00pm Registration	9:00am-4:00pm Registration
10:15am-10:45am Opening Statement	10:00am-Noon Political Prospects	10:00am-Noon Luna University
11:00am-1:00pm Why A Space Revolution?	2:30pm-4:30pm Colonology & the Preparation etc.	2:00pm-4:00pm Cosmological Education
3:00pm-5:00pm The Technological Infrastructure of the Space etc.	8:00pm-on Rendezvous and Exchange Views	4:15pm-5:00pm Closing Statement
8:00pm-on Rendezvous and Exchange Views		5:00pm-on Rendezvous and Exchange Views

There is little to say about the program since it is fairly self-explanatory. The final item on each day's agenda is intended to be a semi-organized informal discussion section.

The success of the proposed convocation will depend in large part upon the enthusiasm and kinetic energy of those seeing the value of this event. One organization cannot create such a gathering and expect it to have any great effect. Consequently, the first task is the collection of names and addresses of all groups and individuals (provided their interest in space and the convocation is more than curiosity or simple enthusiasm for the void) who are actively and directly working to advance humanity's experience of space. Every member should communicate with the Board any information he or she might possess about such groups. For example, the Board knows of two groups reputedly based in Washington, DC. One is called FFAST (Friends of American Aerospace Technology), the other is named the National Space Club or Institute. What are their addresses? We do not know. But someone close to the nation's capitol might very easily obtain this information. We do not care whether these groups are large or small, well organized or loosely structured, public or private. We desire only more information about ways we may reach them so that CHRYSE 1 can eventuate soon. We are not alone. A close reading of Stimulus/Response for this issue will tell the reader that!

Last issue marked the first year of U.F.O.E.S.P.'s existence. This issue marks the first year of Morale Booster's existence. For twelve consecutive issues, Morale Booster has detailed the work of the organization, served as a connective link for one member to another, presented much of the philosophy upon which we, and all other space enthusiasts to some degree, base our conviction that space exploration and exploitation represent the future of mankind. As Morale Booster continues to document the Space Revolution and our place in it, so will the crest of the future space-wave continue to

rise and rush forward to inundate the farthest shores of society. Space is an incredibly potent force in today's world and we can only expect the potency of this force to be magnified every day and year. We are the wave of the future and only when we understand and accept this fact fully will we exert the influence of which we are capable on the course of this nation's voyage into the universe. One down, two to go!

II. Stimulus/Response: January 29, 1976

"It was most thoughtful of you to take the time to send me [the Third Petition] concerning the space program. It was indeed interesting and will assist me in making decisions on related legislation. ...Please feel free to continue to share your thoughts with me..." John V. Tunney, United States Senate, Washington DC, 20510.// As we know, few Congresspeople read their mail. Thus, the value of communication with these individuals lies not with the direct effect the communication might have on them but with the aggregate influence of numbers. Congresspeople, though they do not read their mail as a rule, do evaluate their mail. The approach is simple even if not simple-minded: letters, telegrams, telephone calls, etc are considered as votes for or against an issue and so communications are tallied as if a vote were being taken on one topic. There is the variation that mail will be monitored sometimes for issue interest. In this case, rather than count communications as votes for or against a position on some matter the communications are counted as votes showing an interest in the matter and so issues become ranked according to the interest (number of votes) shown in them. What is necessary in either case for some one or thing to be effective in the effort to influence Congressional behavior is the willingness to pursue the attention of these individuals even though their responses will often seem to have little direct reference to the original communications with them. We must push and push and push ourselves and our ideas to and on these people. True, there is a certain demeaning character to this exercise for those seeking a hearing for their ideas. But to refrain from the effort is to be ignored. And to be ignored by the space policy makers is to go nowhere in space.

"Just a quick note to relay several important messages:

(1) Heard on the FM news that Timothy Leary (who is in jail in [San Diego] for some reason) wants to travel into space in search of another better world. Are you are of this? He's in that new facility (not the county jail downtown) and we need him!

(2) A fellow in Snowflake, Arizona disappeared this weekend after chopping wood with other co-workers. They saw a UFO which shown a bright white/green light--he went to investigate and POOF--off to outer space I guess. ...

Space is the place!" Jes Hinrichs, 750 Stratford Drive, Encinitas CA, 92024.// It cannot be said too often that there are millions of people across this planet who see space exploration and exploitation as the primary alternative to the earthy and earthly obsessions so characteristic of the present age. These individuals, either singly or in the aggregate, cannot be easily categorized. Their focus upon space is the result of many complex motives and interests. Religious impulses, physical passions, intellectual curiosity, sensory obsessions, political analyses, economic imperatives and many other classes of the human dimension are the stuff from which space dreams and schemes are fabricated. It is not for us to judge who is worthy of the space experience. It is not for us to decide whose intentions for space are pure and sincere. The space environment and, consequently, the space experience itself will determine such questions. This organization does not seek alliances with charlatans or disreputable sorts. But it does seek to unite all those who stand in need of an expanded space program with a forceful and activist outlook to do the job that needs the most doing--the creation of the impetus for a larger space effort, to master the Cosmos as the Cosmos masters us. It is not important whether we approve of Mr. Leary's past or present. It is only important to know whether he, too, seeks unity with the multitudes which strive for the extension of the space experience into deeper reaches of human activity. And awareness.

"As you now know, the comet was never visible. However, it came very close. The teacher who let us in on this event was Dr. LeFebre [of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology], my physics instructor. I hope someday to send you a tape of his voice if I can just catch his talking about space. The day he told us of the comet, he talked about Black Holes. Most of our examples of relative velocities, etc., concern rockets. You may have noticed that questions have arisen concerning Senator Montoya [of New Mexico] and his taxes of the last five years. Four audits have been requested in his years in office; none of these has been carried out. All of these were while he was on a Senate panel having something to do with the IRS. Another audit has been requested as well as an investigation into the others. This is the man whose seat we want [Harrison] Schmitt to occupy. There is a strong feeling here that Montoya would not be elected again anyway, but that he could give strong support for the Democratic candidate who would run against Schmitt. This support will erode if indeed Montoya is a crook. ..." Del L. Tompkins, 737 Highway 60, Socorro NM, 87801.// Comets come and comets go but scholars (of whatever discipline) who recognize the importance of space to Earth and its people are celestial objects we should not only explore but 'sample' or capture if we can. Perhaps the greatest uninvestigated pool of human talent for the Space Revolution is Academia and its inhabitants. The intelligence, foresight, wonder with the Universe, and discipline of these creatures are traits and talents we can greatly use in the furtherance of our objectives. Our organization is yet too small to permit the assault upon the denizens of all the social worlds of space enthusiasts which is needed to galvanize, organize and catalyze their energies to bring about a rapid change in the orientation of the space-policy makers. Nonetheless, we must bring our message and madness for space to them eventually; all preparations for the operation which can be conducted before the actual 'landing' of our forces should be undertaken as soon as possible. We cannot be too prepared for our forays into the realms of the many different space enthusiasts and the sooner these prelimanaries are completed the sooner we may begin our rendezvous with the world of Academia. Having said those remarks, let us say these: John Glenn, the first American to orbit the Earth, has not been and will not be as powerful a voice for space as Harrison Schmitt, the last American to rove the surface of the Moon, would be in the halls of the U.S. Senate. The political inclinations of the astronaut corps (past and present) are not so strong as to make it likely that many astronauts will ever choose to be politicians first and spacers second. When the modest state of the current space program is considered in this context, it becomes evident that even fewer astronauts than the few which would be otherwise expected will seek political office. Thus, it behooves U.F.O. E.S.P. to learn as much as it can about the Senatorial campaign of Mr. Schmitt even if it is not in a position to do much to further his political ambitions. We must make every effort to make space policy an important issue for the 1976 political campaigns, be these campaigns conducted on the lowest local or highest national level. What can be done in this regard is not detailed or precisely clear; nonetheless, there is no question that activities do exist which we can undertake to create the political climate we need to bring attention to the question of space and the part space will play in the evolution of American society in the decades and centennials to come. So let us inquire into Mr. Schmitt's campaign; and let us also inquire into the views held by the many electoral candidates across the land concerning space exploration and the use of the space environment. What are the political implications of the next hundred years in space, Mr. Candidate, sir? Please tell us what is your vision of Mars or Titan!

"Many thanks for taking the time to forward [to] me a copy of 'United For Our Expanded Space Programs'. I sincerely appreciate your bringing this information to my attention. I hope you will continue to permit me to have the benefit of your thinking on other issues of concern to both of us. Best regards." Birch Bayh, United States Senate, Washington DC, 20510.// If one were to answer this letter directly, one would be tempted to discuss with Senator Bayh the peculiarities of his mechanical answering service. However, as we noted in our reply to Senator Tunney's letter above, it is

not usually important for legislators to know their constituency directly beyond electoral purposes. We seek a grand coalition for space recognizing that the mundane considerations of election, patronage, ambition and boundless sincerity of purpose are powerful factors determining the behavior of the Congress and other policy bodies. Mr. Bayh considers the Presidency and seeks it after his fashion. We are prompted to wonder what portion of his style might lend to the propagation of cosmic ideas. Can he be reached? Each copy of every Petition is sent with the conviction that we can affect those distant psyches. All the answers will, soon enough, seem trite and easy. But we must continue spouting them to all the persons, great and small, who do not speak open opposition to space efforts. Such intransigent elements will need to be neutralized in the future but our primary task now is to create the forces-in-being able to undertake such actions as a secondary objective. We must not abandon political action. Rather we must turn these activities to use for increasing membership and unity amongst all space enthusiasts. We do not ignore even such remote possibilities as Senator Bayh. Next year will be the most political of years. The implication we must deduce is the certainty of every discussion possessing political overtones. Many individuals will attempt to become President. All high offices will be sought vigorously. Issues will consequently be in great demand. Yes, Mr. Bayh, you will learn all our opinions on the Void!

III. Voices From The Inside World

The United States' space program enters an abstract state with respect to manned exploration of the Universe. Other nations have other plans for space exploration. Last issue we mentioned a Los Angeles Times story on the implications of China's latest space exploits (orbit and retrieval of large space capsule). A recent issue of Newsweek explored this same topic in great detail. There seems little question amongst analysts in the United States and Western Europe that China nears a manned mission--by the end of the decade. History, as we know, gives rise to hopes in those who study it that the aforementioned timetable is conservative. We need more competition in space. If the Chinese were to be successful in an attempt to orbit a human being, we could expect a corresponding transfer of the complicated nationalistic perspectives we observe on Earth today to the interplanetary medium. In all nations is a latent understanding of the importance of the space environment for political and economic future well-being. When considerations of defense or agriculture or energy or some other mundane matter do not puncture the veil of illusions which humanity puts 'twixt mind and stars, then we see complacency about space issues. But let another Great Power expand into any area with determination and spectacular achievement and changes of priorities will eventuate in rival nations. One must always understand that today's world makes nearly all nations rivals of all others. An exaggeration to be sure but only in degree not in kind. In any event, space enthusiasts can only view with extreme pleasure the prospect of China joining the ranks of primary space powers.

Especially when one considers the implications of recent Soviet experiments in space. Soyuz 20 was launched in November and though it was an unmanned mission, it bodes well for such activities in the future. The capsule automatically docked with the space station Salyut 4 and transferred hydrogen, oxygen, water, and other vitals for life support systems in space to the station. When these reports were made in the non-Soviet press, they were often accompanied by evaluations of Soviet space prospects. A general view was that the Soviets are pursuing a goal of manned planetary missions and that they are developing at this time the equipment and procedures necessary for the long voyages such missions would represent. It is thought that the first Soviet planetary mission would be to Mars or Venus and it would likely be a fly-by mission. These reports carried in the weekly Science News and the Los Angeles Times also spoke of the openness with which the space policy makers of the Soviet Union express their long term goals. Even if the Chinese were not pursuing an aggressive space program it is clear that the Soviet nation is planning for the future. The emphasis of the Soviet program upon practical technologies such as metallurgy, agriculture and fabrication techniques in their space experiments clearly indicates the colonial nature of their projects.

In fact, there is evidence for the proposition that the United States is following a vigorous, though circumspect, manned space program. The Space Shuttle appears at first as a modest venture, given U.S. history in science and technology, moreso when contrasted with such bold plans as the Russian planetary missions. Yet this modest idea is being seen as an increasingly pregnant conception as greater thought is given to it by more, diverse minds. Such journals of the popular astronomical press as Astronomy have articles on the possibilities to which the Space Shuttle may lead in the areas of economic integration of Earth and non-Earth industries, ease of transport for persons and material from lunar bases, and the economic benefits to be expected from the development and deployment of modular satellites. It may be that sufficient space technology has been developed to insure the increase in rate of discovery and use of the space environment by this and other nations. To a great extent we are seeing an internationalization of space exploration and development of it as a resource occurring as the consequence of nationalistic programs for prestige and prowess. India, Indonesia, France, China, Japan, Italy and Great Britain are only some of the many nations pursuing extensive space programs. We cannot be sure that great potential for rivalry is not present in such a process but whether or not it is present we can be assured of the continuing flow of insights, techniques, products, and inventions which will grow from these many space efforts. Certainly the sum total of these efforts compared to other spheres of human activity such as education, health or war is relatively small. But the effects build upon one another with space projects in a way not true of other societal ventures. For the moment we accept this state intuitively. But for the future this state makes enormous advance in humanity's ability to put space to use in a conscious and disciplined way certain. So many dedicated minds, so much national treasure, so much historical precedent cannot be productive in any other fashion.

We must be aware of the danger of complacency in these circumstances. There exist great pressures upon space undertakings from many areas. It is important to note in this context the increasing attention being given to weapons of destruction of every magnitude. The rhetoric of the Great Powers is given an ever sharper edge. One cannot discuss rationally the national treasure devoted to war and the preparation for war. It is not our purpose here to draw any moral lessons; it is our intent to give perspective. As long as we are prepared to advance every argument supportive of our goals we shall be assured of sufficient resources to stabilize the situation. The time for the engagement of our larger divisions nears.

But let us leave such militant considerations and return to our vision of Great Space. Every day brings new questions about the structure of the Cosmos. Every month some unexpected result in an experiment opens great vistas of discovery. Every year the momentum of the human experience of space looms more significantly on the form of human society. Pots, pans, pens, produce derive from procedures developed for space. How do we know these things? The evidence surrounds us. Think of pocket calculators, watches, popular music, the millions of Star Trek lovers growing like tribbles in numbers....the cinema, popular astronomical literature, the addition of many powerful instruments recently to the working world pool of astronomical tools....posters, computers, telephones, college educations, language evolution....space permeates our bones.

Let the next month be the month of precision. For the moment we wish only to expand our thoughts on space. Color, kinesthetic awareness, equilibrium, sound and sense of time are greatly changed by the alien sensations. Every journey is an expansion of consciousness. And it is by means of consciousness that humanity has most often sought progress.

We all understand psychological conditioning. The organism perceives its environment and reacts to its perceptions. Patterns become established through neurological modification at the physiological level. Eventually, the higher brain functions become a part of the pattern. This is what is meant by the term transcendent experience: the neurological basis for the habits of perception and routines of higher brain analysis become useless as currently constructed. It is another way of saying that the organism has become alienated from its environment. This alienation is the result of the organism becoming aware of its distinction from Reality through the intervention of an alien experience. We return to the neurological basis for the habits of perception and routines of higher brain analysis. If they become ruptured (i.e., unable to process information coherently), the alien experience begins. The terminology is ominous. It cannot be denied that this rupture carries the possibility of fatality. Transcendence may break the bonds orienting the organism. Yet every bold action has its merits. All measures are not equally applicable. Thus, to determine the final balance for the fair answer to the question of defense and security so much the source of lively discussion in the popular press is impossible. If we are to exploit the insecurities of the population we must do so delicately and briefly. War is not peace but it is a close approximation. When the equations become greatly simplified within the set of societal processes, these close approximations often cannot be distinguished one from another. Are we alarmed? Yes. Is our alarm properly focused? Yes but mostly no. It should be our task for the celebration of the U.S.'s birthday to sharpen the focus on this aspect of foreign and domestic policy.

In summary, we should not worry if we cannot maintain a detailed catalogue of new mastery of the interplanetary medium. If there is any meaning to history, it is that the documentation of events may often serve as a more vital element of evolution than the events themselves. For two decades the nations of this world have had great and small designs on other worlds. The techniques to touch many of them directly are with us today. In these times of superficial doubt of the future of man and woman in space it is especially supportive to study this cosmic history. We sail to island universes, magic forces named and physical constraints taken for granted. This humanity, its individuals are like children. Nurtured by haphazard parents.

IV. The Bicentennial And Beyond

July 1975 marks the beginning of the Bicentennial Era in the United States. Although we are not certain when this Era will end, we have no doubt that its presence will be strong well past the end of the decade. The United States was a long time born-ing and there are many moments in the process which patriots would wish to herald: the many battles of the Revolutionary War, the final peace treaty of 1783, the many Continental Congresses, the adoption of the Constitution of 1789. Clearly the nation was not formed, even formally, in a day and the passing of 1976 will not bring an end to the Bicentennial focus of the national spirit. This conclusion can only be emphasized by the degree to which the Bicentennial is being celebrated by nations other than the United States. It should not be forgotten in this context, either, the degree to which the United States is turning its energies and reflections on national purpose towards itself. The nation seeks support for its current position in the world through an examination of the country's achievements and adventures of days gone by.

This period will be one of many questions concerning origins. What environmental factors permitted the rapid industrialization of the country? What political considerations determined the social policies of the emerging nation? In what ways did the greater world of the community of nations affect the formation of this country's distinctive character? The questions will seem endless and the answers interminable. Yet some order will become distinguishable from the welter of idiosyncratic analyses. Every investigation of the sources of American success will touch upon the role of natural abundance to America's development, the value of her geographical position, the tremendous vitality the immigrant populations injected into the social machinery of industrialization and

colonization of the Western Plains. In addition, and for our purposes more importantly, these various answers to the question of America's origins will devote some attention to the importance of the 'frontier' both as a physical reality and as an ideational construct to United States development. Some views, no doubt, will place little emphasis upon this aspect of American history. Others will place much more. In any event, all will admit that our character and evolution was determined in part by the existence of a vast frontier in dirt and spirit for the fascination of the developing nation's psychology.

We are not well versed in the language and techniques of psychology so we cannot undertake an inquiry into the mechanics of the influence of the idea of the frontier upon America. Furthermore, for our understanding of what potential the Bicentennial celebrations have for expansion into space it is not important that we understand the sequence of cause and effect for all the manifestations of the frontier concept through American history. That of which we must be aware is the cultural importance attached to the frontier in addition to the changing emphasis placed upon it by different political perspectives. We must also understand the meaning of this concept for ourselves personally.

When the patriotic elements revel and celebrate the beginnings of the United States, they will sing praise to expansion. The history of America is the history of larger and larger undertakings being assumed over increasingly large geographical areas. The story of the evolution of this country is the recitation or chant of vital statistics. More forests felled, more mines opened, more people coming to the new land, larger agricultural enterprises, greater population mobility, increasing shares of world trade, more guns, more butter are many expressions of the general principle of American expansion. We do not judge the process or its manifestations here; we only note the characteristic aspects of the evolution of this country. The history of America is one of unquestioned growth (for this reason, if no other, we would expect ecological awareness to be difficult to create and to maintain in the U.S.).

Expansion, however, may occur in a vacuum or it may occur into occupied areas. The former case is usually simpler in its implications than the latter case in that an expanding force is less likely to encounter other (static or expanding) forces in a vacuum than in an occupied region of spacetime. In the case of nations this probabilistic consideration means that the former situation leads to greater integration of more homogenous social elements than the latter one does. Though there were many indigenous populations on the continent when the Europeans began their invasions, and though many, if not most, of these populations had sophisticated cultures, their numbers, lack of political unity, spiritual view of natural resources and lack of mastery of technology (to be understood in futurological sense rather than anthropological one) ensured the inability of these indigenous groups to withstand the European invasions or to affect in any large way the societies these invaders created. Consequently, though the Russian expansion into Siberia is closer to the case of expansion into a vacuum than the American conquest of the Western Plains, the American expansion across the continent of North America was in effect the moving of force into a vacuum (for this reason, if no other, we can understand the difficulties the United States encountered in later years when its expansion was into occupied areas rather than vacuous ones for which by history the nation was prepared).

The frontier has served for the United States not only as a reservoir of space and natural resources (farm land, forests, minerals, grazing land, etc) for the ever larger economy but also as a reservation for social misfits, miscreants and experimenters in life style. The Mormons trekking to Utah, the utopians building New Harmony and Oneida in the Midwest and the rural areas of the Atlantic states, the defenders of law and order (such as many sheriffs of the Old West) indistinguishable from the attackers of same (such as John Wesley Hardin) are all examples of people who responded to the frontier not as a vast unexploited natural resource but as a refuge from proper society. From the mythical and idealized perspective of cultural history this view of the frontier as refuge from artificiality and conformity predominates. Indeed, many of the personal attributes most prized by the society are ones which distinguish the frontiersman from his more sedentary and sedate counterpart in 'civilization'. Individuality, self-reliance, ingenuity, independence are all personal qualities characteristic of people on a frontier and are also personality traits idealized by American culture. It is not only to tobacco enthusiasts

that the Marlboro Man appeals.

It would be an oversimplification to say that the ennui affecting so much of American society or the confused sense of national purpose is the consequence of the mastery of America's physical and materialistic frontiers. Yet such a statement would not be such a gross oversimplification that it could be dismissed out of hand. The United States has continually conquered limits: the wilderness west of the Appalachian Mountains, the Mississippi River, the Dakota Badlands, the Rocky Mountains, the Mojave Desert, the oceans, the air. With the submission of the physical limits to the nation much of the energy directed to the frontier was transferred to the frontiers of world war and global peace. However, the decades since the 1940s have witnessed an increasing realization amongst Americans that there is little influence to be brought to bear upon other societies by people outside the societies. Nations, be they large or small, new or old, rich or poor, each possess elaborate and refined senses of prerogative. As a result, nations are extremely jealous of the efforts of other nations to influence them. This characteristic is observed not only with regards to acts which are hostile or domineering by one nation towards another but also is seen with respect to humanitarian actions. Ethiopia, suffering a severe famine, asks for assistance from the world community. Massive food shipments are delivered to Ethiopia where one-quarter of them are lost due to corruption and spoilage as a consequence of the insensitivity of the bureaucracy and haphazard organization of the emergency food distribution network. When the donor nations seek to intervene in the situation so as to speed assistance to the starving, they are rebuffed: Sirs and Madams, you are in Ethiopia now, things must be done the Ethiopian way. This obsession with national prerogative can be seen in the attitudes adopted by less developed nations towards the aid programs of the industrial powers. On the one hand, the less developed nations earnestly desire and beseech the industrial powers to grant them aid; on the other hand, the less developed nations do not want this aid to be granted with any reservations, limits, guidelines, or goals. No, it is an insult to national dignity, it is proclaimed, for any requirements to be attached. In summary, the world today holds no frontiers such as the ones a nation such as the United States is accustomed to confront and conquer historically.

What is the lesson from this discussion for the space enthusiast? The lesson is two-fold: the United States has been stimulated to grow in large part by the challenge of frontiers and space is the endless challenge. The Bicentennial Era is a time of searching for the roots of America and as such it is a pre-eminent time for bringing to the public's attention to the place space can play in the nation's quest for another frontier. For the Bicentennial is not only an intensive examination of the American past; it is also a reaffirmation of the American experience for the future. The problems facing the world community (such as population pressures on the environment or the industrialization of the Third World to raise living standards there) are ones which the United States cannot affect directly or to any great extent. But this planet no longer defines the Universe of Man and it is the realm of the worlds beyond Earth's atmosphere which will shape the future (being constructed right now) civilizations of humanity. The wretched of the earth seek the frontier and they have found it: full bellies, improved medical care, universal education and decent housing. For nations such as America, whose poor are rich and whose illiterate are educated compared to the standards of the majority on Earth, these challenges generate no enthusiasm or vision for most of their citizens. Only space is vast enough and alien enough to capture the imagination and stir the spirit. American technological expertise was spurred in its development in many instances by the demands of the harsh and alien frontier; space is a harsh and alien environment beyond our appreciation. American economic dominance was achieved in large part through the mastery of the frontier and its unknown wealth; the riches of space are numberless worlds unexplored. Yes, the Bicentennial is a time for reaffirmation and it is the responsibility of the space enthusiast to reaffirm those primary features of the American past: exploration of the mysterious, mastery of the unknown and colonization of the 'vacuum' for human purpose. The Western Frontier made America what it is today; let the Celestial Frontier make it what it will be tomorrow!

-----The Board of Governors
U.F.O.E.S.P.